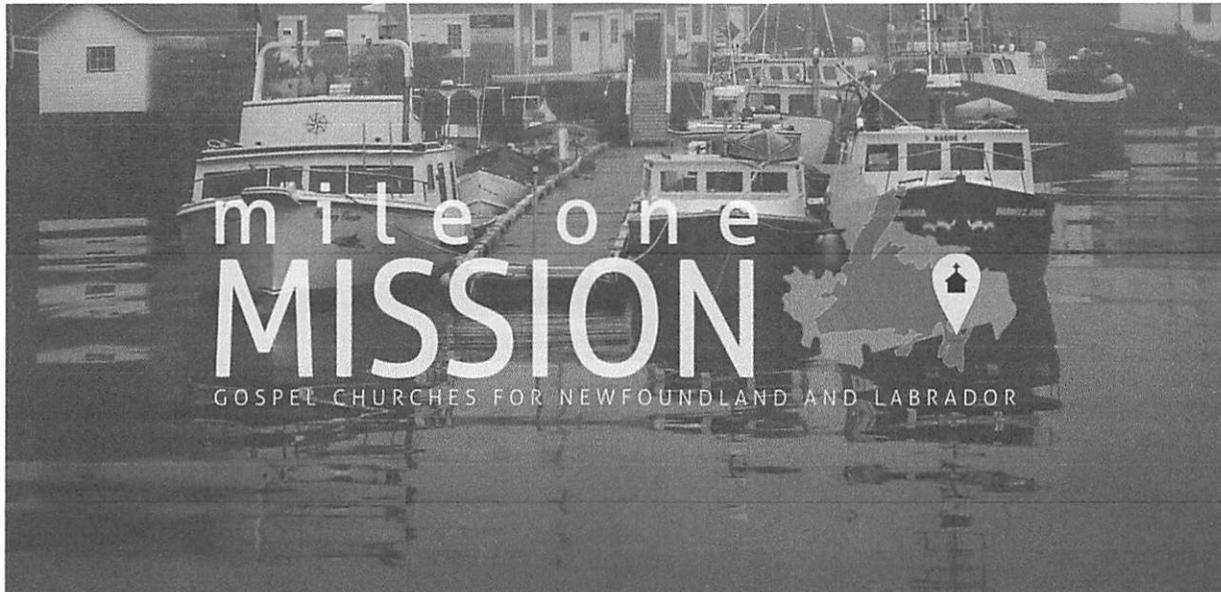


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Onward to Newfoundland!

The Aches of Real Life

Christmas was a strange one this year. The celebrations were full. The music was loud. The rooms were warm. Community did abound. Yet amidst the celebrations there was a small emptiness. The music, though loud, tended to fade into noise. The rooms, though warm, left a chill within me. The community, though abundant, left the dull ache for those I've called home. Now the festivities have ended, the work has come, and real life has begun.

Real life...this is where Christ meets us. He is not solely found in the church building, the singing of hymns, the bread, or the wine. Nor is He solely found in the times of good pleasure. But in the aches of real life, there He is to be treasured.

Before leaving for Newfoundland, I had a friend & mentor advise me, "Grieve what you are leaving." That is where I found myself this January. The Lord has been good to me. He has given me many whom I love deeply. Yet He has called me to leave them and to be here. In that, the Lord has been so good. He has provided a caring community around me. He has sent me to a church that is giving me an opportunity to minister. He has brought me to a place that has a great lack of gospel preaching churches. So I grieve what I left, and I see Christ's care for me in where I am.

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I haven't captured any crazy photos yet, so here is one I believe captures the Aches of Real Life from a local photographer, Erik Mclean.

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The New Year started off at a sprinter's pace. Our church had 2 unexpected funerals. One of our missionaries was also in the hospital unexpectedly with his kidneys failing. Each of our church plants kicked off their first Bible studies/services of the year. Calvary had its first members meeting of 2026 (where 9 of us got voted in as members). Finally, we launched our Mile One Campus Ministry.

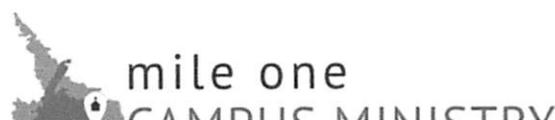
Personally, I have been busy. I had the privilege to preach a chapel service at Anchor Academy, a local K-12 Christian school. I have begun to help lead our campus ministry; this year we will meet weekly on Wednesdays.

As a team, we had to sit down and work out our 2026 goals. Within those goals were 3 things I'd like to share: (1) Big Focus, (2) Big Question, (3) Word of the Year.

My big focus for this year and over the next two years of residency is—"Lord, make me into a pastor." A pastor, that is what a church planter is, just with a unique responsibility to see a new work started. So my prayer is that the Lord, through His word and the Holy Spirit, would use this time, this people, and this residency to shape me into a pastor.

My big question for the year is—"Lord, where would you send me? Where have you placed my burden of place and people?" I have wrestled with this idea of place/people of burden for awhile. I used to reject the idea, yet as the Lord used Paul's life and writings in my life, I saw a pattern. Paul always had a burden for a people/a place he went. The Lord didn't always allow him to go where he desired, but a burden for people/places always stirred within Paul as he ministered. Therefore, I am praying that this year the Lord Jesus would stir within my heart a burden for a specific people/place as I serve here in Newfoundland.

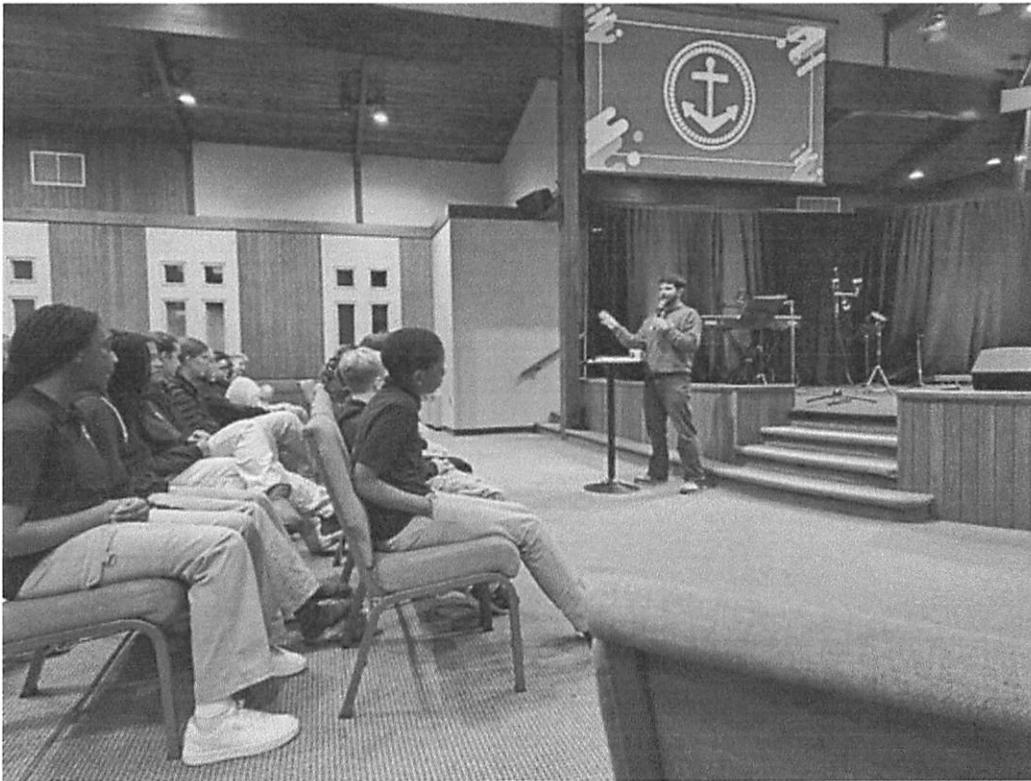
Lastly, never have I ever done a word for the year, but this year my word is TRUST. Trust that the Lord has brought me here. Trust the Lord with my future. Trust the Lord in the good gifts He is giving me. Even, trust the Lord enough to be willing to give all of it up for the Kingdom. I pray this will be a year where I see the areas I haven't trusted God in and learn to trust the Lord more with the big things and the little things.



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The Year Ahead

We have some pretty big things coming in 2026!

Mile One Campus Ministry is transitioning from meeting every other week to meeting weekly. We are trying to make a big push for this because Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN) is a university of ~20,000 students and maybe ~1% of those students are engaged in a local church. Lord willing, we will be able to push these students to one of our local churches .

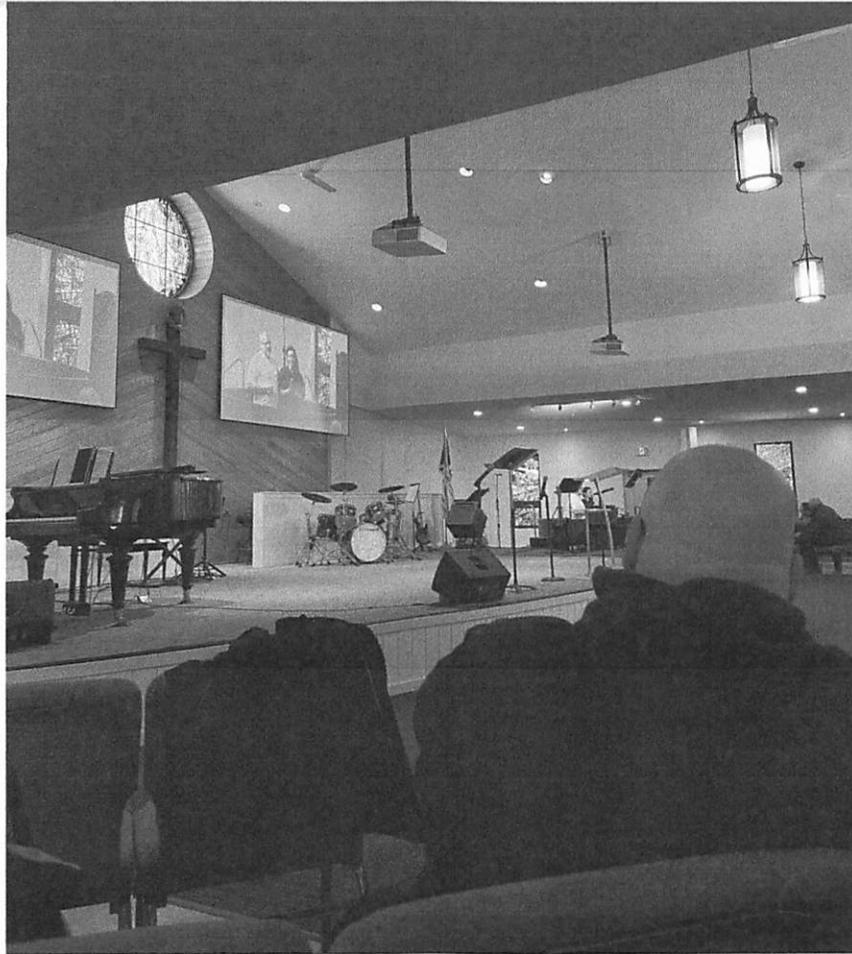
We have a record number of Mission/Vision trips this year. These trips will take a major amount of manpower, so summertime will be all hands on deck. I am praying that some of my potential church partners will come up during this time.

Lord willing, we will move into our new offices sometime in April-May. This has been a project that Mile One has been working on for years, so this will be a milestone for our ministry.

One of the most important things happening this year is that Calvary Baptist Church is hosting the Canadian National Baptist Convention (CNBC) in October. We are planning for ~700 people will show up for this convention, including Paul Chitwood (IMB), Kevin Ezell (NAMB), and Vance Pitman (SEND). We are praying, as a result from the CNBC, people eyes will be opened to what the Lord is doing in Newfoundland & Labrador, show people the need that Mile One Mission has, and start a fire in those who attend to take what is being done here back home with them.

In between these major events, I should begin NAMB assessment, will continue building church/individual partner relationships, travel to some partners and conferences, and will be on the preaching rotation. Things seem to be going from 0-100 REAL QUICK.



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Partner in Prayer

There were some really exciting things that we want to praise the Lord for:

- **Church Growth**—The Lord is growing his church here in Newfoundland. Calvary hit 102 members for the first time in her history!
- **Gospel Conversations**—The Lord opened the door for me to share the gospel with two people—Evan & Elliott.
- **Chapel**—Praise the Lord, I had the opportunity to preach at Anchor Academy's chapel.
- **Campus Ministry**—The Lord has provided us a FREE space for us to meet on campus!

There is also much to pray for this year:

- **Herb**—Calvary's missionary, is out of the hospital but will be on dialysis for the foreseeable future as they continue to discern what is wrong with his body.

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formed, and engage our ~20,000 student campus with the gospel.

- **Mission/Vision Trips**—This is set to be the busiest summer of Mile One's history. Pray that we would be filled with energy, we would rest well, that the Lord would use the mission teams to bring people to faith, and that the Lord would bless us with new partners from the multitude of vision trips.
- **New Offices**—This will open up a ton of space within the church building, resolve many logistical/storage issues, bring more cohesion to our team, and in time save money. Pray that the Lord would continue the speedy construction process and provide partners who want to either serve via construction or give towards the finishing of the offices.
- **CNBC October 20-22**—With ~700 people expected, there are many logistics to resolve. This conference also has a chance to make a major impact on the city of St. John's and the future of Mile One Mission. Pray that we would be able to plan well. Pray that Christians would be blessed by the CNBC. Pray that our city would be flooded with Christians for a week and that many would hear the gospel and come to faith. Pray that people would see the spiritual reality of Newfoundland, and that hearts would be burdened to come here or to support us.

There are also some ways you can pray for me in the coming days:

- **Evan**—I prayed for the Lord to send someone that I could share with, the next day I met Evan at the gym. We later had a coffee meeting, and he brought a notebook. He claimed that by the end of his notebook, he wants to have made a decision about Jesus. Pray that he would like to continue to meet and for the Lord to soften Evan's heart and open his eyes to the gospel.
- **Elliot**—I was playing Xbox and started chatting with this guy. He asked why I was living in NL and that led to a conversation about Christ and the Church. Pray that Elliot would begin to follow Jesus, and pray for Tucker, who has the chance to share the gospel with him regularly.
- **Preaching/Teaching**— I will be preaching at Calvary on February 22. Pray that I would study the text well, that the Spirit would grip my heart through the text, and that I would be able to preach the gospel boldly. Also I will be teaching/leading regularly in the Campus Ministry and Men's Group. Pray that I would handle my schedule well and guard my time to study, and pray that the Lord would protect me from pride as I get opportunities to lead.
- **Discipleship**—I am tasked with gathering a group of guys who I could disciple. I have a few in mind, pray that the Lord would build natural relationships that I

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Then please pray with me for these big concepts in 2026:

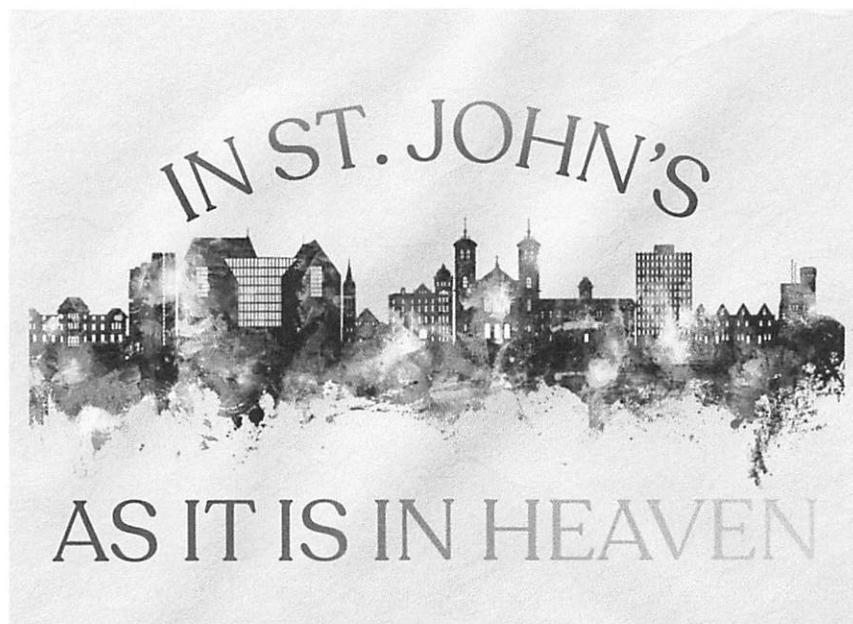
- **Big Focus**—Pray that the Lord would make me into a pastor, that I would have a heart to care for and shepherd people, and that I would be burdened for the lost around me.
- **Big Question**—Pray that the Lord would burden my heart for a people and a place as I seek to serve His church.
- **Word of the Year**—Pray that I would grow to TRUST Jesus more with my time, my resources, and my future.

Till Next Time

To those who pray with me, thank you. I couldn't serve here without you. To those who support me financially, thank you for sacrificing for me. To my friends and family, I love you all very much and think of you often. If there are ways I can pray for you please email me: brodie@mileonemission.ca. Also if you know of anyone who would like to join our prayer team or to partner with me financially, please connect us! My hope is that we would see it in St. John's as it is in Heaven.

Your brother in Christ,

Brodie Starnes



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